

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      HELSIN 02229 211445Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

OMB-01 /060 W

----- 028851

R 211343Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 608

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, FI, KN

SUBJECT: FINLAND PNG'S FOUR NORTH KOREANS

REF: HELSINKI 2216 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FINLAND HAS JOINED DENMARK AND NORWAY IN EXPELLING NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE FINNISH ACTION ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 20, APPLIES TO ONLY PART OF THE STAFF OF THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN HELSINKI.

2. MFA STATEMENT FOLLOWS: "THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAS TODAY DECIDED TO DECLARE THE ACTING CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, COUNSELOR CHANG DAE HI, SECOND SECRETARY LI SANG JUN, CHANCERY OFFICER LI CHON SOP, AND CHANCERY OFFICER BONG IN YENG AS PERSONAE-NON-GRATAE IN FINLAND. THE EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE PURSUED ACTIVITIES THAT ARE IN CONFLICT WITH FINNISH LAWS AND WITH THE VIENNA GENERAL AGREEMENT CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZES THAT FINLAND CONSIDERS IT OF

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PAGE 02      HELSIN 02229 211445Z

PRIMARY IMPORTANCE THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS PREVAIL-

ING BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA SHALL CONTINUE." WHILE THIS  
STATEMENT DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT ACTIVITIES THE NORTH  
KOREANS ENGAGED IN, THE FINNISH PRESS REPORTED THAT  
SMUGGLING AND SALE TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS OF  
CIGARETTES AND ALCOHOL WERE INVOLVED.  
ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE SIX  
DAYS TO DEPART FROM FINLAND.

3. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS OCTOBER 20, NORTH  
KOREAN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN LI ZU GWON DENIED WRONG-  
DOING BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND STATED THAT THE NORTH  
KOREANS DO NOT INTEND TO LEAVE FINLAND BUT WILL  
ASK THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS ACTION.  
IN APPARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT GOODS FROM HIS  
EMBASSY HAD COME INTO THE WRONG HANDS, LI SAID THAT  
"PROFESSIONAL THIEVES" HAD STOLEN THESE ITEMS FROM  
THE EMBASSY BUILDING AT SOME UNSPECIFIED TIME.

4. THE FINNISH CAMERA CREW COVERING LI'S ANNOUNCEMENT  
WAS SET UPON BY THREE OTHER NORTH KOREANS WHO  
OBJECTED TO ITS PHOTOGRAPHING THE EMBASSY. THE  
NORTH KOREAN ATTACKERS USED THEIR HANDS AND DID  
NOT CAUSE ANY DAMAGE OR INJURY. THE FINNISH MEDIA  
HAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED THE FILM OF THE SCUFFLE.  
END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE  
CONFIRMED TO US THAT FINNISH AUTHORITIES ARE IN  
POSSESSION OF AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT THE NORTH KOREANS  
WERE INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL SALES OF QUANTITIES OF  
NOT ONLY LIQUOR AND CIGARETTES BUT ALSO DRUGS.  
THE PRESS HAS INTIMATED AS MUCH, CITING UNNAMED  
FINNISH GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE FINNISH GOVERN-  
MENT HAS NOT DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS BUT  
OBVIOUSLY PREFERS TO CARRY OUT THE EXPULSION  
ACTION WITHOUT DIRECTLY CONFIRMING THEM.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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